

Mississippi Broadband Task Force Members

Nicole Stofer – Governor Haley Barbour’s Office
Hunter Carpenter – Governor Haley Barbour’s Office
Elizabeth Joseph – Governor Haley Barbour’s Office
Manning McPhillips – Mississippi Development Authority
Ken Sones – Mississippi Development Authority
Craig Orgeron – Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services
Vicki Helfrich – Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services
Gary Rawson – Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services
Larry Greer – Mississippi Public Utilities Staff

The Mississippi Broadband Task Force (MBTF) was created by Governor Haley Barbour in April 2009. The task force was charged with overseeing the state’s broadband technology strategy for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, otherwise known as “the stimulus package.” Stimulus broadband funding has been made available through the State Broadband Data and Development (SBDD) program and the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). These programs were designed to expand broadband access capabilities throughout the country, especially in rural, underserved, and unserved areas.

Since its inception, the MBTF has overseen and managed the state’s first broadband mapping grant application which resulted in an award of \$2 million. Through these SBDD grant monies, the State of Mississippi is outlining the broadband assets as well as the areas that lack broadband accessibility so that it can identify Mississippians’ unmet broadband needs.

The MBTF is also administering the latest funding awarded to the State of Mississippi – a \$70 million BTOP grant to expand the current Mississippi Wireless Information Network (MSWIN) system. MSWIN allows first-responders and emergency personnel in disaster situations to have constant and secure communication capabilities.

With the vision of the MBTF, Mississippi is moving forward with broadband technology.